[2nd March 1959

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : Apart from there being many poets outside, as stated by the Hon. the Education Minister, there may be many poets inside this very House. That being the case, what is the chance for them to get this honour if there is no such scheme to honour poets?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : That is why we do not want to name any one as Poet Laureate. All are Poet Laureates.

Lay Secretary and Treasurer

* 92 *Q.*—SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) the Government hospitals and other medical institutions having Lay Secretary and Treasurer and the duties assigned to the Lay Secretary and Treasurer;

(*b*) who performs the duties of Lay Secretary and Treasurer in other hospitals; and

(*c*) whether there is any proposal to post a Lay Secretary and Treasurer to all District Headquarters Hospitals and, if so, when it will be given effect to?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : (*a*) A statement [a] is placed on the table of the House.

(*b*) The routine duties are performed by the Assistant District Medical Officer or Resident Medical Officer, as the case may be, and the financial powers are exercised by the District Medical Officer or Superintendent of the hospital, as the case may be.

(*c*) No, Sir.

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM : Will the Hon. Minister enlighten us on what has become of the proposal made by the T.B. Sanatorium Rehabilitation Committee proposing the appointment of a Lay Secretary for rehabilitation work in that centre?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : Sir, the Director of Medical Services is examining the question of appointing Lay Secretaries for all Headquarters Hospitals. In that connexion, this matter will also be considered.

DR. A. LAKSHMANASWAMI MUDALIAR : May I know whether the Hon. Minister has fixed any qualifications for the appointment of these Lay Secretaries keeping in view the fact that as many as 14 duties of various descriptions including the purchase of drugs and various other articles are assigned to them? What are the qualifications fixed and how are these Lay Secretaries appointed ?

[a] Printed as Appendix I on pages 20–22 infra.

2nd March 1959]

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAELU : Lay Secretaries are appointed from the Administrative Service, I mean the Ministerial Service. What is taken into account is experience in ministerial work. But, I am aware that the holding of this post entails some special knowledge of certain other things also. I shall ask the Director of Medical Services to keep this point also in view when he considers the question of appointing Lay Secretaries.

DR. A. LAKSHMANASWAMI MUDALIAR : Is the Hon. Minister aware that hospital administration forms a special class of training ground in most of the foreign countries and that unless they have such training, they are not appointed to exercise such wide powers including the responsibility for the proper maintenance of the drugs and medicines, instruments and appliances, forms and stationery? While forms and stationery may be all right, can the Hon. Minister tell us whether the Lay Secretary knows anything of instruments and things like them?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : Sir, he may or may not know. But, we are now trying to be on a par with other countries so far as this matter is concerned. We are moving in that direction and I hope we will move all right.

DR. A. LAKSHMANASWAMI MUDALIAR : Let us hope so.

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM : Are we right in presuming that it is on the basis of the bed-strength in the different hospitals that Lay Secretaries are being posted?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : Yes, Sir. The hon. Member's presumption is corect. When the bed-strength is 250 and above, a Lay Secretary is to be appointed. Now, in the light of the question of appointing Lay Secretaries in all Headquarters Hospitals, that qualification or criterion may or may not apply as we may not have 250 patients in all the Headquarters Hospitals.

SRI T. PURUHOTHAM : In the statement placed on the table of the House, we find that in the Government General Hospital, there are two Lay Secretaries, one in Grade I and the other in Grade II. May I know whether it is necessary to have two Lay Secretaries? What are the duties assigned to each of them?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : It is a very big hospital. So, one Lay Secretary may not be able to cope with the work.

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : May I know why they are called Lay Secretaries? What is the significance of the term?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : It is just like 'layman'. He cannot meddle with forceps and things like them.